

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS: This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant patent application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Previously presented) A recombinant viral vector essentially comprising
tTA-intron¹-TK⁺-TetO₇-CMV⁺-intron²-transgene
in which
TetO₇ is the heptamerized tetracycline operator
TK⁺ is the minimal thymidine kinase promoter
tTA is a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a fusion protein from the repressor protein
inducible by tetracycline and the transcriptional activation domain of the Herpes
simplex virus VP16,
CMV⁺ is the minimal cytomegalovirus promoter and
Transgene is a nucleic acid sequence which codes for a non-viral protein
Intron¹ is any desired non-encoding nucleic acid sequence with a length of O to
approximately 1000 bp and
Intron² is any desired non-encoding nucleic acid sequence with a length of O to
approximately 1000 bp, wherein the vector is an adenovirus.
2. (previously presented) A vector according to claim 1 wherein the insert is
inserted into the viral vector genome in reverse orientation.
3. (previously presented) A vector according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the positions
of tTA and transgene are inverted in the insert.
4. (currently amended) A vector according to ~~claims 1 to~~ claim 3 wherein the insert
contains an additional lac repressor (lacR) between "CMV⁺" and "intron²" or between "intron²"
and "transgene".
5. (currently amended) A vector according to ~~claims 1 to~~ claim 4 wherein the
transgene is a nucleic acid sequence encoding a fluorescence protein, luciferase, interleukin-12
(IL-12), interleukin-18 (IL-18), interleukin-2 (IL-2), tumor necrosis factor α (TNF- α) or
interferon- γ (IFN- γ).

6. (previously presented) A vector according to claim 5 wherein IL-12 is a single chain interleukin-12.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A vector according to ~~claims 1 to 6~~ claim 6 wherein the insert is cloned into the E1 and/or the E3 region of a recombinant adenovirus.

9. (currently amended) A vector according to ~~claims 1 to 6 or claim 8~~ claim 8 wherein it is obtainable by homologous recombination of a viral plasmid and an expression plasmid with the nucleic acid sequence designated SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:3.

10. (previously presented) An expression plasmid with the nucleic acid sequence designated SEQ ID NO:4 or SEQ ID NO:5.

11. (currently amended) Production of a vector according to ~~claims 1 to 9~~ claim 9, comprising use of a plasmid according to claim 10.

12. (currently amended) In vitro gene expression in eukaryotic cell lines, comprising use of a vector according to ~~claims 1 to 9~~ claim 9.

13.-18. (Canceled)